

Appl. No. 10/085,921
Amendment Dated January 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2003

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-26 are now in the application. Claim 25 has been amended. Claim 27 has been canceled.

In item 5 of the Advisory Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25-27 as being obvious over Brennan under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 10-16, of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Amended claim 25 calls for, *inter alia*, a method for identifying a mug that includes the following steps:

marking a mug handle cover to be unique;

releasably attaching the mug handle cover to the mug; and

releasing the mug handle cover from the mug when finished drinking from the mug. (Emphasis added by Applicants.)

Brennan discloses a mug with a character-supporting handle cover. The handle cover is attached. Brennan does not teach or suggest a handle cover that is attached to a mug to

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distinguish it from other similar mugs and to easily release
from the mug after the user is finished drinking from the mug.

Claim 26 depends on claim 25 and is patentable for the same
reason.

Claim 27 was canceled from the application.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of
claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-26 are solicited. In the event the
Examiner should still find any of the claims to be
unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable
language can be substituted. In the alternative, the entry of
the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the
application in better condition for appeal, without requiring
extension of the field of search.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee
for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section
1.136(a) in the amount of \$55 in accordance with Section 1.17
is to be withdrawn from deposit account 12-1099.